

Church of God

Evangel

August 13, 1956



MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Ellis Auditorium in Memphis, Tennessee
Site of the approaching 46th General Assembly

A History of Past Assemblies



A H I S T O R Y O F P A S T A S S E M B L I E S

Vol. 47—No. 23 August 13, 1956
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FRONT COVER



The Evangel issue of January 21 was dedicated to the First Assembly. In it we featured short notes on the twenty-one delegates to the First Assembly—R. G. Spurling, T. N. Eirod, W. F. Bryant, Nettie Bryant, Agnes Bryant, J. C. Murphy, Malissie M. Murphy, John Elson, Johnnie Brown, Andrew Freeman, Alex Hamby, R. R. Jones, Balford Crumby, Sallie Hamby, T. Ellis, Ella Robinson, Lucy Coleman, W. M. Coleman, M. S. Lemons, A. J. Tomlinson. On the opposite page are pictures of the surviving delegates to the historic Assembly, plus a picture of R. G. Spurling and W. F. Bryant in front of the home of J. C. Murphy when the Assembly convened. The Evangel is indebted to Buford M. Johnson, Assistant Editor of the White Wing Messenger, for the pictures of Eirod, Jones and Brown.



Coming Next Week "70th Anniversary Issue"

seven delegates to

Church of God Evangel

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 Charles W. Conn, Editor-in-Chief

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DECLARATION OF FAITH

WE BELIEVE

1. In the verbal inspiration of the Bible.
2. In one God eternally existing in three persons; namely, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
3. That Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of the Father, conceived of the Holy Ghost, and born of the Virgin Mary. That Jesus was crucified, buried, and raised from the dead; that He ascended to heaven and is today at the right hand of the Father as the Intercessor.
4. That all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, and that repentance is commanded of God for all and necessary for forgiveness of sins.
5. That justification, regeneration, and the new birth are wrought by faith in the blood of Jesus Christ.
6. In sanctification subsequent to the new birth, through faith in the blood of Christ; through the Word, and by the Holy Ghost.
7. Holiness to be God's standard of living for His people.
8. In the baptism of the Holy Ghost subsequent to a clean heart.
9. In speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance, and that it is the initial evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost.
10. In water baptism by immersion, and all who repent should be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.
11. Divine healing is provided for all in the atonement.
12. In the Lord's Supper and washing of the saint's feet.
13. In the premillennial second coming of Jesus. First, to resurrect the righteous dead and to catch away the living saints to Him in the air. Second, to reign on the earth a thousand years.
14. In the bodily resurrection; eternal life for the righteous and eternal punishment for the wicked.

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the first assembly still survive

1.



2.



3.



4.



Tom Elrod 1
Johnny Brown 2
W. M. Coleman 3
R. R. Jones 4

*Site of first
Assembly.
R. G. Spurling
and W. F. Bryant
(both deceased).*



AGNES BENTON 64
NETTIE BRYANT 92
ELLA THOMPSON 70

Our Pentecostal missionary
to the Gypsies of Europe
gives a glowing report of

GOD'S MIRACLES AMONG

I WAS ON my way to Southern France. I knew that the Gypsies this spring, as in other years, were making their pilgrimage to Sit Marie-de-la-Mer, a small fishing village on the Mediterranean Sea. After a while, when I only had a few miles before reaching my destination, I could feel that something very unusual was going to happen. Wherever I looked I saw Gypsies walking, carrying their bundles. I saw them coming, driving colorful wagons; yes, I saw them in cars—a caravan of Gypsies, probably, never seen before. When I reached my destination I could hardly find a place to park. Every inch of space was occupied. Close to the sea I saw the Gypsy tents. I went down by the sea and raised my tent. The Gypsies lit the fires in front of their wagons and tents after sunset. Soon I heard the most wonderful music. It was singing with music from guitars. Tens of thousands of Gypsies were gathered here. Why had they come here? To meet as friends meet? Perhaps, but I knew that be-

hind this gathering was the Catholic Church. This Church has given the Gypsies their own saint—*Black Sarah*—and around her image the gypsies gather every year to worship. The Catholic missionary, Joscha, told me this: "This thing was given to the Gypsies by the Catholic Church about one hundred years ago in order that this people might have something to worship and look up to."

In a crypt under the small cathedral we found *Black Sarah*. The Gypsies had clothed her in shining white silk and had a diadem on her head. The small room was lighted by hundreds of candles, and the Gypsies were fighting their way into it. Before this image, these poor people were kneeling, kissing the statue, crying and pouring out their innermost hearts, asking for peace of mind or something supernatural to happen to them—but to no avail!

A few days later I witnessed a sort of parade, a Mardi Gras one might say. The Gypsies came parading along the seashore and through the little

village carrying the statue *Black Sarah*. When I saw this march of thousands of Gypsies looking for peace and rest and heard their cries for God, I knew I had to tell them about Him who is the only One that can give peace and joy and happiness to longing hearts and souls. No one had ever told them about Christ, the risen, glorified Saviour. No one had showed them wonderful Golgotha. No one had told them of God's great love, which made Him send His only begotten Son that whosoever believed in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. No one ever mentioned Him to them. No one cared to do it. They were a despised and forgotten people. We meet them day by day, but who cares for a Gypsy? God does! They are all precious in his sight. He wants all nations to come to the knowledge of Him.

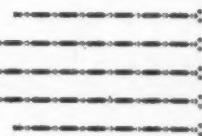
On the next evening I made my way up on the roof of a bus. I put a white sheet between two trees and with my projector and a few pictures of the life of our Lord, I began to tell my friends of the love of Christ and His saving grace, and I offered to help them. Soon I had a crowd of listening people. Afterwards I went from wagon to wagon and from tent to tent telling everyone the wonderful story of Jesus and His love. There is a longing in Gypsy hearts for something, and I want to go out and tell them the wonderful things God has prepared for them.

Soon the holy day would come to an end. Then these poor people would leave the camp, empty and dissatisfied, without receiving what they really came for. The image *Black Sarah* could not fill their longing hearts with peace and joy, but, praise God, I knew who could do it. I thank God for the men and women in the United States whose hearts God has touched and who are now praying for the Gypsies and helping me to spread the gospel among them. I am sure that we soon will see the silver lining on the clouds



Gypsy woman preparing a meal.

By A. O. Berglund



THE GYPSIES

and the hour of freedom for this group of people. We shall soon see the hour of redemption for this despised and forgotten people. I am determined to tell them the truth and, praise the Lord, the truth shall make them free.

In May, 1954, I was traveling in Bretayne. One day I saw in the distance a Gypsy camp. I could feel that something unusual was happening. I could not hear the high-pitched voices that one usually hears coming from a Gypsy camp. I stopped and listened. What did I hear? Could I believe it? I heard the Gypsies praying and soon they were singing that glorious hymn, *Whiter Than Snow*. My heart was full of praise and thanks to God. I hastened my steps; I wanted to be in their midst to share the wonderful blessing that God was pouring over this people. They all gathered around me, lifting their hands to heaven, praising God and thanking Him for His goodness and grace everlasting. I remembered a few of the people from Sit Marie-de-la-Mer. Now they were lifting their hands to the living God. God had come into their midst in a wonderful way, which is His alone. Before my own eyes, I saw the glory of God coming down upon this people—a people the Christian world had forgotten for centuries, a people we passed by. Now God is among them, pouring oil and wine in their wounded hearts and giving them peace in their souls, happiness and joy unspeakable and full of glory.

SOMEONE LED a young boy to me. His mother was dead. His father brought him to the camp. The boy had been deaf and dumb since birth. The Gypsies were all gathered around the fires—fifteen hundred of them. Someone prayed and laid hands on the boy's head. The boy put his hands to his face and began to speak a language that no one had ever heard. The boy was instantly healed. The Gypsies cried, lifted their hands toward heaven and thanked God for

(Continued on page 10)



"Whiter than snow."



The Spirit of God is moving.

Scenes From Past Assemblies



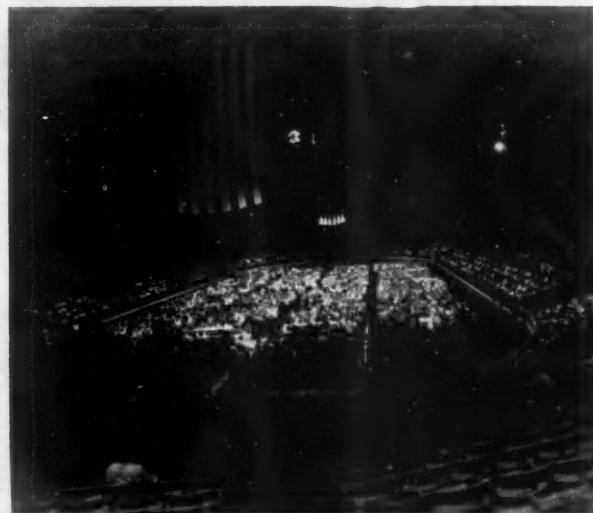
Overseer Past to Overseer Present, 1952



Atlanta AUDITORIUM, ASSEMBLY SITE, 1939



1952, Indianapolis, Indiana



1952, Indianapolis

1952, Indianapolis





1935, Chattanooga, Tennessee



1946, Birmingham, Alabama



Chattanooga AUDITORIUM, ASSEMBLY SITE,
1934-1938, 1940, 1941



Birmingham AUDITORIUM, ASSEMBLY SITE, 1942-1943, 1946-1950



1954 General Overseer and His Two
Assistants



ASSEMBLIES

By J. H. WALKER

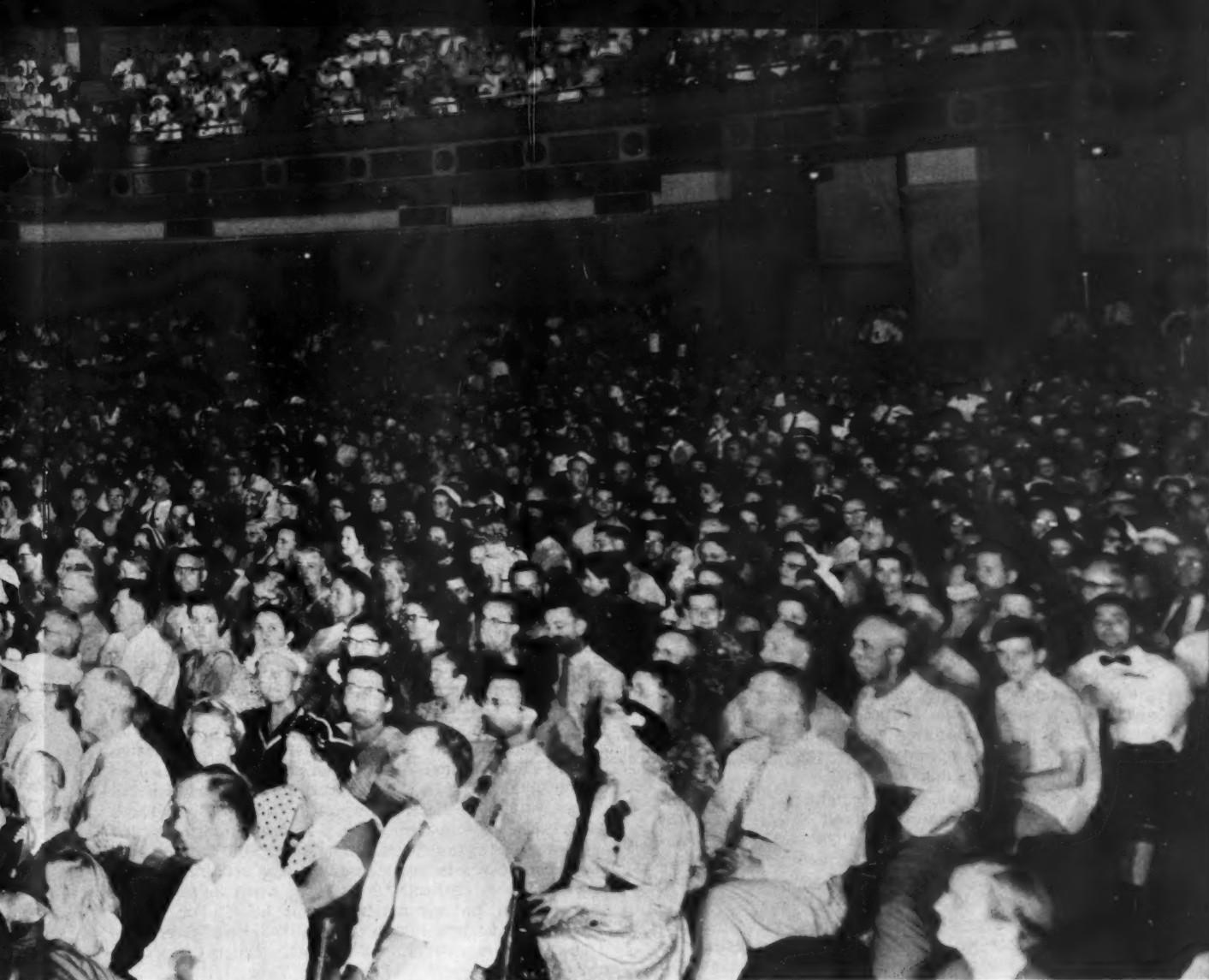
WITHIN A FEW DAYS we will again meet in the great General Assembly of the Church of God, at Memphis, Tennessee. What a meeting it will be—what a fellowship, what a time of worship, of business and consecration. Everyone will be very busy; the general officials, boards, and committees will be doing double-duty. Everyone will be thrilled with the marvelous services, with meeting old friends, and with concern in general. Before we scarcely realize it, it will be appointment time and time to say goodbye. You see, I should know, for I have attended twenty-nine General Assemblies during the past thirty-four years—never missing a single one. Always I have been there at the beginning and have never left until the close. For many

of us, our lives revolve around the General Assemblies.

What Mecca is to the Moslems, what the Temple is to the Jews, what Jerusalem was to the early Christians, the General Assembly is to the Church of God—and more, too. It is very important that we meet to search the Scriptures, and determine ways and means to do most effectively the work God has assigned the Church in this dispensation. If you think the General Assembly uninteresting, dry and as cold as a dozen business conferences, you should attend. It is more like the blessedness of forty-eight state camp meetings packed into one. From the time of my youthful pastoral days when I was in my teens, I have been thrilled with the news of the General Assembly. To me, the most appreciated Assemblies were the ones in which definite steps were taken for progress.

(Continued on page 10)

The Church of God Evangel



S I REMEMBER

By H. L. CHESSER

IN 1923, I ATTENDED MY first General Assembly in the Church of God, in Cleveland, Tennessee. It convened in the Auditorium at the corner of Montgomery Avenue and Northeast Eleventh Street, where a portion of the General Offices now stands. I shall never forget how thrilled I was to have the privilege of attending the General Assembly of the Church I had become a member of in 1919. I attended the Bible School, also.

The auditorium was the largest building I had ever been in for a church service. The building was packed and jammed with people, and such shouting and speaking with tongues by so many people I had never heard before. I felt almost next door to Heaven. The Spirit

and blessings of the Lord that prevailed at that Assembly have, in a marked degree, continued through the years. When God's people begin singing and praising the Lord in a large gathering, they seem to gain momentum; the love and fellowship that follow weld our people together until it is said that no greater fellowship can be found than that among Church of God people.

I have attended each General Assembly since 1923. Some things I remember very clearly; others, perhaps, just as important, have slipped my mind. During one Assembly held in Cleveland, a man took the gavel used by Moderator F. J. Lee and threw it into the stove, hoping to burn it; but it was retrieved immediately, and the meeting continued. One can not predict just what will happen during a General Assembly.

In 1928, General Overseer F. J. Lee died in office while
(Continued on page 10)

ASSEMBLIES I REMEMBER

(Continued from page 8)

OF COURSE, I SHALL never forget my first Assembly in 1922. Then we were in turbulent times with great troubles at the head, which brought untold heartaches and disappointments. Through all, we knew that *right would prevail* and our faith in the Church's security was greatly assured at the 1923 Assembly when Brother F. J. Lee became General Overseer. This great Bible scholar, with a deep Spirit-filled life, by God's approbation, became the man of the hour for such a time.

In the 1924 Assembly, when the Holy Spirit prompted deeper consecration, I solemnly promised God that I would go into the full-time ministry, and I kept my promise by resigning my position and entering Bible School the next fall. At this Assembly, I first met Miss Missouri who was destined to figure in my future. Two years later we were married—just two days before the 1926 Assembly. We had our honeymoon at the Assembly without missing a single service during the whole week. I was present when the Constitution was repealed and when the Missions Board, the Board of Education, and the Publishing Committee came into being, and when the Council of Twelve was elected by the ordained ministers.

During the 1928 Assembly, our hearts were saddened because our beloved General Overseer was called to his reward in regions beyond this vale of sorrows. I shall always appreciate Brother Lee and the interest he manifested in me. I could never forget his loving counsel concerning further preparation for the responsibilities which he felt were facing me.

Brother S. W. Latimer, a dear friend of mine, shoudered the General Overseership and directed the Assemblies for seven successful years. In 1929, I was present when the Young People's Endeavor and the *Lighted Pathway* were born. Also, in 1934, I was present when the Aged Ministers' Retirement plan was adopted.

Of course, I was present in 1935 when, as a thunderbolt out of a clear sky, the responsibility of being the General Overseer of the Church of God was placed upon me. This was the greatest challenge of my life. I say, humbly, that I gave of my best, sincerely. I felt my heart in the grip of God for the evangelization of the world. I tried my best for nine years to stir the whole Church to prove our claims by action. With a system of reporting, I challenged each state to beat its own records. I must hasten to say that, for whatever was accomplished, the glory goes first to God and then to my co-workers—ministers and laymen—for their faithfulness.

Space will not permit my continuing. However, let me say, though the management or personnel may change, the *Church of God* does not change; it moves on. If you

fear the movement, under God, is about to face unsurmountable difficulties, I have news for you. Meet me at the next Assembly, and you will see that God still works everything for His glory. I believe God.

ASSEMBLIES I REMEMBER

(Continued from page 9)

the General Assembly was in session, but his life and influence still lives among our people.

At times through the years, sailing in the Ministers' Council and General Assembly has been a little rough. I remember a few times. The subjects that caused the turbulent waters were nothing to get alarmed about, and we have not lost the compass. The stars are still shining. Subjects such as The Church, Sanctification, Marriage and Divorce, Limitation of Office, and Declaration of Faith have been on the agenda in one way or another during many of the Assemblies of the past. The Church of God is a progressive movement and sometimes growing pains disturb people. In spite of all the changes in administration and policy, the Declaration of Faith that was adopted in 1948, forty-two years after the first General Assembly, showed that the Church had made no change in her faith.

In 1935, at the General Assembly in Chattanooga, we were almost deadlocked in trying to elect the General Overseer. Some got considerably disturbed. The incumbent, S. W. Latimer, saw the situation and withdrew his name from the ballot, and there was a change in administration. Nine years from that time a limitation of office was thought best. Though the attendance at the 1944 Assembly in Columbus, Ohio, was curtailed because of war restrictions, radical changes in Church policy were unhampered. When a recommendation which suggested districting the United States and Canada into about four districts was introduced, the ordained ministers became as enthusiastic as Peter when he said, "not only my feet, but my hands and my head." For a time we had six districts and six Assistant General Overseers.

The next year, which was 1945, the General Assembly convened in Sevierville, Tennessee. Though it was curtailed because of a polio epidemic, we came ready to remedy some of our spasmodic decisions of 1944. We repealed the Districting Act and dispensed with the five assistants to the General Overseer. We are progressive; but, when we see we have sidetracked, we try to rectify our errors.

The Assembly? Why, I would not miss it at all. To attend the Assembly is a *must* in my program. The coming one will make twenty-nine for me. To put something in an article about twenty-eight Assemblies in a few words is as a preacher trying to preach about the Doctrine of Holiness in ten minutes. My condenser is too small for such a task.

GOD'S MIRACLES AMONG THE GYPSIES

(Continued from page 5)

His healing power. I decided to stay some time with this group. What I saw and experienced in their midst is something I cannot describe. It can

only be compared with the wonderful things that happened in the Acts of the Apostles. The deaf heard, the blind saw, the lame walked and hundreds of them came to the Cross to give their poor longing hearts to Him who said, "Come unto me all ye that

labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." The Gypsies took me from wagon to wagon. There I saw the sick on their beds. The crowd came into one wagon, praying and singing, and the Shekinah glory of God covered the wagon. We experienced the enor-

mous power of Almighty God. The sick were healed, they left their beds and followed us, singing and rejoicing in a living God—a different God from *Black Sarah* at Sit Marie-della-Mer. Our God is neither a god made by human hands nor an unknown God. He is a living God who dwelleth in you and me to give us our hearts' desire. He saves us and makes us His children; He fills us with His Spirit and keeps us always rejoicing in a risen, living, glorified Jesus!

Yes, it surely is God's time for the Gypsies! God is visiting this people and a happier, more wonderful day is coming to a despised, forgotten, ignored people—a people who delight in serving God, a humble people who are thankful for the blessings a living Christ pours upon them.

How did all these wonderful things happen in France?

On the outskirts of the city of Lesieux in Normandy were a couple of Gypsy wagons. In one of them a Gypsy woman was crying. Her son, sick from tuberculosis was lying on a bed of straw on the floor. He was dying. No one in France shows sympathy for a Gypsy, so she was left alone

in her sorrow and grief. A servant of God came into the camp. When he noticed the Gypsy wagons, he walked up to one of them. Seeing the door open, he sat down on the steps, opened his Bible and read: "For God so loved the world . . ." The stranger stepped inside, knelt beside the dying boy and prayed. He laid his hands on the boy's chest, and they felt the power of God. The sick boy got out of bed, put on his clothes and asked for something to eat. He was instantly healed. His mother, Madame Duvil, cried and left the wagon. The other Gypsies came to see what had happened. When they saw the boy coming out of the wagon healed, they went down on their knees, crying.

Madame Duvil had another son. He was traveling with the Gypsies in Bretagne. She wanted to contact him. He could neither read nor write, but one day he learned what had happened to his brother. He started on his way to Normandy, and soon he reached the camp. There he was met with a wonderful sight. The Gypsies were praying and he heard them singing *Nearer My God to Thee*. He went to his brother and found him healed, saved and happy and rejoicing in the

living Christ. When he noticed his mother singing and praising God, he took the hand of his wife, and they both went down on their knees! Here the living Saviour met with these two humble persons. God spoke to them, and so one day Jean Duvil went out to preach the gospel and healing to the sick, according to the Master's will. He went to tell the greatest story ever told to a forgotten, despised, ignored people—a people whom God considered in His wonderful plan of salvation; the same salvation you and I have experienced.

A few weeks later one could see a caravan of Gypsy wagons a mile long. In it were singing, praying, rejoicing Gypsies whom God had chosen in mercy and grace to have part in His wonderful redemption.

And so one of the most wonderful revivals is on the way, one that, perhaps, has no equal in modern history.

In my next article I would like to tell you what God is doing for the Gypsies in different countries. This is a work among the Gypsy people all over the world, a work in which the Church of God is engaged in a special way. Pray for us and for the people among whom we are working.

HOLLAND

Sister Queen Holland was born January 31, 1878, and passed away July 5, 1956, to be with the Lord. She will be greatly missed by the Church and friends in Greenville, Florida. She was a charter member of the Church of God in Greenville. Funeral service was conducted by Brother J. J. Kittrell, the pastor of the Church of God, and the Reverend Hugh Harris, the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Greenville.—J. J. Kittrell.

HESTER

The Church of God suffered a great loss June 3, 1956, when God saw fit to call home to his reward one of our able ministers, Brother Calvin J. Hester. God had smiled upon the ministry of Brother Hester, and his labor had been fruitful. As an evangelist, his revivals were outstanding; and, as a pastor, his churches always showed remarkable progress in all departments. He was a very successful pastor in the State of Virginia, having done commendable work in Portsmouth, Newport News, and Radford, where he was pastoring at the time

of his death. He had labored for fifteen years as a minister in the Church of God and was never happy or contented unless souls were getting saved. During the last ten weeks of his life, though dying of cancer, he never complained. He encouraged the hearts of all who came to visit him.

After each visit with him, one came away loving the Lord more than he ever had in his life before. Brother Hester would tell of heaven and how he was going home to dwell there. Repeatedly, he would tell his many friends, as they prayed at his bedside, "Please do not pray for me to get well; you are just delaying my trip home." He said on one occasion, "I am tired. I want to go home. I want to see Jesus. I am going to see Him in a few days. I am looking forward to that time with great anticipation." He said, "This is what I have been working for; this is what I have been preaching for." In his desire to make his going as easy as he possibly could for his faithful wife, he called for the funeral director and made his funeral arrangements. The funeral director,

who was a close friend of Brother Hester's, broke down and wept. I saw him weep more than once after Brother Hester passed away. Just a few days before Brother Hester crossed over, our good state overseer, Brother George D. Lemons, and some other ministers came to visit him. Brother Lemons waved to him through the oxygen tent. Though his strength almost was gone, the Holy Ghost came upon Brother Hester, and he began to speak in other tongues. Then he raised his bony hand and said, "Boys, I'm going home." These were the last words he ever uttered in this life. He died at the age of fifty-six years, leaving behind his faithful and loving wife, Mrs. Lilly Mae Hester, three sons and four daughters. His funeral was conducted at the Radford Church of God by Brothers F. W. Lemons, George D. Lemons, O. C. McCane and Fred Hopkins. He was carried back to Greenville, South Carolina, his home town, where another service was conducted by Brother E. T. Stacy; his body was laid to rest there. It broke our hearts to lose him, but heaven is a little brighter since Dad is home with the Lord.—His son-in-law, Charles B. Wycoff.

REPORTS

"God Gave the Increase"



Cincinnati (12th & Elm Street), Ohio

The spiritual tide has risen to a new high in Cincinnati, with all departments sharing a real interest.

We have enjoyed the ministry of three evangelists: Brother Homer and his wife, Brother Fred Sanders, and Brother Hollis L. Green.

The two weeks with Brother Fred Sanders gave the church 30 saved and 16 filled with the Holy Ghost. His ministry was enjoyed by the church.

Brother and Sister Homer Miller were with us for three weeks, and the unique ministry of Sister Amanda Miller was a great inspiration to the church. Sixty-one souls were saved and 42 were baptized in the Holy Ghost. A standing welcome is extended to Brother and Sister Miller by the church in Cincinnati.

North & South Dakota Camp Meeting

The annual camp meeting of North and South Dakota has come and gone. The date, June 18 through June 24, was earlier than usual, but this was an advantage to all. Great blessings attended this camp meeting. Each day, from the early morning prayer meeting until the last service at night, the Lord met with His people.

Brother H. D. Williams was a great blessing to us, as also was Brother Tilly. Children's Church by Sister Beckman and her helpers meant much to the children and to their parents as well. The presence of our Canadian brethren, W. H. Pratt, Anton Meyer, Ernest Pennington, and others, was much appreciated.

Our overseer, Brother L. B. Painter, labored untiringly in all phases of the work. Brother Milton Parsons and his helpers directed the singing, and

Brother Hollis L. Green, state youth and Sunday School superintendent of West Virginia, was with us for only one week, and there were 14 saved, 12 sanctified, and 11 baptized in the Holy Ghost. Brother Green's ministry was thrilling to the church, and we are looking for a return visit from him.

The church has received 113 members, making a total of 551 members to date.

We are hoping to relocate in the city, in a building that will accommodate a larger Sunday School, because we plan to have an outstanding increase in our attendance.

On the picture are the 56 people who joined the Church—a real highlight of our operation.—G. W. Lane, Pastor.

Brother N. B. Wills directed the instrumental music. The music was excellent.

Bible studies were led by Brother Williams, Brother L. O. Vaught, and Brother David Glover. The missions service, with Brother Walter Lauster, was an unforgettable one.

The alumni of Northwest Bible School met on Friday for an annual business meeting and a luncheon.

The camp meeting closed on Sunday night with a soul-stirring message by Brother Walter Lauster. We left the camp feeling that it was very good for us to have been there. —Mrs. Andrew Anderson, Ryder, North Dakota.

New Interest in Wyoming

CHEYENNE, Wyom.—As you know, the work in Casper, Wyoming, disintegrated, and left no work for the

Church of God in the whole State of Wyoming. However, on June 16, Brother and Sister Mangum and my family moved to Wyoming to establish some works in the area of Cheyenne. We are happy to report that a church will be organized and set in order within the next two or three weeks. We have a Sunday School in operation now.

On July 1, two airmen from the nearby air base were at dinner at a buddy's home. As they were talking about the various churches in the area, the lady of the house mentioned that there is a Church of God in Cheyenne. One airman replied that he knew of it but that it is a different organization from the one of which he is a member. At that she said, "No, I mean a new one. A lady came by on Thursday and left this magazine. She said that they are from Tennessee and were opening a new church here." She gave the boy a copy of the *Evangel* which Sister Batson had left with her. As soon as the boy saw it, he knew that he had found the Church his heart longed for.

He was a little late for the service, but as he came down the street and heard the gospel singing, he was thrilled in his soul, for no other church sings the same songs as the Church of God sings. Brother Alfred Sloan, of Greenville, South Carolina, could hardly contain himself; through a copy of the *Evangel*, he had found the Church he longed for. The other boy is Donald Reed, of Greensboro, North Carolina.

There are many servicemen from all over the United States stationed here, and we are making contact with all we can. We do believe that God sent us out here, and I know He will provide the way for more churches in this holiness-hungry country. The people are begging for the Church of God with its love and standard of living.—Charles W. Batson.

1956 Tennessee Camp Meeting—A Spiritual Feast

An outpouring of the unspeakable blessings of God was received by members and friends attending the Church of God camp meeting in Tennessee the week of June 18-24. The number of cabins constructed this past year on the attractive campground near Chattanooga, purchased by the Church less than three years ago, denoted that the meeting was eagerly anticipated. From the beginning, the music and singing, under the direction of Bennie S. Triplett, was excellent. Great sermons were delivered, but the most noteworthy aspect of the camp meeting was the continual presence and manifestation of the Holy Ghost.

Large crowds (estimated to reach over 6000) attended the evening services which featured a series of evangelistic messages by A. V. Childers,

of Charlotte, North Carolina. In at least one service, Brother Childers dispensed with preaching to permit seekers to answer the call to a deeper experience with God. In these services many were healed, saved, and sanctified. Well over 100 received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. Several were filled with the Holy Ghost as they passed a line of ministers who laid their hands on the seekers in accordance with apostolic practice.

An outstanding series of Bible lectures was given in the morning services by Billy Sunday Myers, of South Carolina. His timely subjects: (1) "The Origin, Organization and Administration of the Church," (2) "Defense of Our Fundamental Position," (3) "Significance and Meaning of Water Baptism," and (4) "Conversion" were at once educational, inspirational, and substantial. Brother Myers' participation in the camp meeting was climaxed by a Sunday-afternoon sermon on "The Baptism of the Holy Ghost."

The camp meeting was honored by the presence and testimonies of our General Overseer, Zeno C. Tharp; H. D. Williams, General Secretary and Treasurer; L. H. Aultman, Overseer of North Carolina; and A. M. Phillips, Overseer of Kentucky.

James A. Cross, Assistant General Overseer, delivered a profound and moving message on "God's Promise to His Church." H. B. Ramsey, Overseer of South Carolina, preached a soul-stirring message on "Things Difficult to Understand."

All the good preaching was not limited to visiting ministers or officials, for W. T. Morefield, H. L. Russell and Lloyd Jones, representing the Tennessee preachers, delivered excellent messages. The inspiring thoughts presented in such sermons as "Remove Not the Ancient Landmarks," by W. J. Brown, and "Noble Discontentment," by M. E. Roberson, will not be forgotten soon.

The importance of the Ladies' Willing Workers' Band in the Church was recognized on Tuesday afternoon in the service conducted by the wife of our overseer, Sister W. E. Johnson. The Church of God people in Tennessee appreciate the work of the ladies in supporting the spiritual and financial program of the Church.

Fred Jernigan, State Youth Director, was in charge of the Youth Day Service on Saturday, "Emphasizing Spirituality." Along with programs to promote Lamplighters Clubs, Youth Camps and Children's Church were three speakers: Louis H. Cross, Bennie S. Triplett, and Douglas Jacobs whose subjects, "Youth Answering God's Call," "Youth Facing Today's Problems" and "Interesting Youth in Christ and His Church," were chosen to emphasize the spiritual phase of our youth program.

If any one service were to be chosen as outstanding, perhaps, it would be the missions service on Sunday morning. God's presence embraced the congregation during moving testimonies by missionaries, Brother and Sister Helton, from Hawaii; Lambert and Mary Lauster Delong, from Germany; and Sister Dora P. Myers, from India.

Wade H. Horton, Foreign Missions Field Representative, brought a forceful missions sermon under the anointing of God. The floor offering for missions combined with offerings from churches amounted to \$30,176.54.

In the closing service, the delegates stood in appreciation of our good State Overseer, W. E. Johnson, whose efforts contributed so much to the success of the camp meeting. I am sure that all who attended the camp meeting with open hearts left with hearts filled with God's goodness and love and with praises on their lips for a great spiritual feast.

Louis H. Cross,
Publicity Committee

West Virginia Camp Meeting

The State Camp Meeting and Convention of the Church of God in West Virginia was held June 25-29, and was run according to the standard set at the feast of Cana which Jesus attended. In other words, Jesus was there; the meeting started out well, and the best was at the last of that great feast. Space does not permit the full account, but we had some preaching that was as good as has ever been heard by anyone. I do not believe that St. Paul himself would have done any better preaching on "The Glorious Church" than Brother B. Paul Horne did. The message on "The Strength of Christian Fellowship"

ship," by Brother R. C. Hodges, was outstanding. The closing message, "The Middle Cross of Calvary," by Brother Ray Hughes, National Youth Director, was a fitting climax to the great meeting; and, literally, scores came to the altar.

We were greatly honored to have Brother Houston R. Morehead, Assistant General Overseer, with us, and he preached on the "Unbeatable Game of Sin." Brother R. Leonard Carroll brought a marvelous message on "The Two Foundations." Brother A. W. Brummett, Overseer of The West Indies and Bermuda, brought a stirring message on the need of missions. The floor offering for missions was over \$900 and, without that offering, we had already exceeded our state goal of \$25,000 which we had set for the past year.

The Imperial Quartet from Lee College thrilled us with their singing, and we were delighted to have with us Brother J. H. Hughes, former state overseer; Brother J. Stewart Brinsford, former president of Lee College; and Brother A. M. Phillips, Overseer of Kentucky. As Paul said in Hebrews 11, time would fail me to tell of the others; best of all, God was there.

We thank God for such a good state overseer as Brother G. C. Hamby who has labored very faithfully in West Virginia.—John F. Brand, Reporter.



Remodeled Interior of the Ware Shoals Church

WARE SHOALS, S. C.—To God we give thanks for the many blessings He has given us at the Ware Shoals Church of God. Under the capable leadership of our pastor, Brother Thomas Grassano, and his wife, our church has grown in many ways. They have been with us six years. During this time, our membership has grown from 24 to 115. Our Sunday School has grown from an average attendance of 50 to an average of 161. The Sunday School record attendance has been broken twice with an attendance of 371. Our previous record was 331. A three-story educational building has been completed, recently. This gave us a nursery, pastor's study, and ten

new rooms. We now have a total of 15 Sunday School rooms with a full-sized basement. Also, the Sunday School is now departmentalized. We have remodeled the interior of the church, installed new light fixtures, a choir loft, new carpet, stained glass windows, and a baptistry with a beautiful painting of the river Jordan, new ceiling and have painted the entire building. The church is furnished with light oak pews. The value of our educational building is \$30,000; but, because labor was donated by members and friends, the actual cost was \$16,000. About half of this has been paid. Pray for us that we will climb higher for God.—Edna Cothran, Reporter.

QUALIFYING WINNERS



Group I
The Rev. L. H. Aultman
S. O. of North Carolina



Group I
The Rev. S. A. Luke
Y. D. of N. Carolina



Group III
The Rev. W. C. Byrd
S. O. of Del., Md., D. C.



Group III
The Rev. Leon Ellis
Y. D. of Del., Md., D. C.



Group IV
The Rev. J. A. Stephens
S. O. of Indiana



Group IV
The Rev. E. M. Abbott
Youth Director of Indiana



Group VI
The Rev. V. D. Combs
O. of the New Eng. States



Group VII
The Rev. Frank Bradley
State Overseer of Nebraska



Group VII
Miss Edna Davis
Y. D. of Nebraska



Group VII
The Rev. Madison Sindle
S. O. of New York



Group VII
The Rev. Eugene Nicholson
Y. D. of New York



Group VII
The Rev. H. C. Stoppe
S. O. of New Jersey



Group VII
The Rev. L. Daughenbaugh
Y. D. of New Jersey



Group VII
Mrs. George Ayers
Y. D. of Central Canada



Group VII
The Rev. George Ayers
Overseer of Cen. Canada

RESULTS OF THE 1956 PUBLISHING HOUSE CONTEST

The annual 1956 Publishing House Contest commenced March 1 and closed on May 15. Although all of the national goals were not reached, there were many fruitful and worth-while results. The immediate outcome was a boost in circulation figures and a phenomenal increase in Pathway Book Club membership and a new high in sales.

The LIGHTED PATHWAY circulation figure has again passed the 50,000 mark. The contest figures for the *Evangel* showed a circulation of about 59,000. The Pathway Book Club membership increased from only 262 to more than 2,500 members. Sales indicate 50,000 copies of the Convention Song Book sold. The circulation of the *Pilot* now stands at a new high.

Reports indicate a general boost in the church program as a result of the contest. States which sponsored a singing caravan to promote the new Convention Song Books are pleased at the results in sales and about the revival of interest in gospel music. Many are happy to have been afforded the chance to send the LIGHTED PATHWAY and the *Evangel* to prisons, hospitals and unsaved friends. Others are thrilled over the benefits and values already received as a result of being a member of the Pathway Book Club. New, uninformed Y.P.E. leaders are most grateful for learning about the *Pilot*.

The total benefit, the harvest of this effort, will never be measured by human hands. However, the visible results indicate an open field, open hands, and open hearts ready to receive the blessings of our publications. It is up to us, Church of God people, to continue to supply this blessing.—H. Bernard Dixon, Sales Manager.

GRAND PRIZE WINNERS



Group I
The Rev. Earl P. Paulk, Sr.
State Overseer of Florida



Group I
The Rev. Homer J. Boatman
Youth Director of Florida



Group II
The Rev. H. T. Statum
State Overseer of Mississippi



Group II
The Rev. J. E. Devore
Youth Director of Mississippi



Group III
The Rev. Ralph E. Williams
State Overseer of California



Group III
The Rev. Paul L. Walker
Youth Director of California



Group IV
The Rev. T. A. Perkins
State Overseer of Oklahoma



Group IV
The Rev. Roy Horton
Youth Director of Oklahoma



Group V
The Rev. Brady Dennis
State Overseer of New Mexico



Group V
The Rev. William Dobben
Youth Director of New Mexico



Group VI
The Reverend Estel D. Moore
State Overseer of Wisconsin



Group VI
The Rev. Curtis Matheny
Youth Director of Wisconsin



Group VII
The Rev. Grady Waters
State Overseer of Minnesota

WINNERS OF THE PUBLISHING HOUSE CONTEST

The REV. EARL P. PAULK, SR., Wins for Fourth Consecutive Year

The 1956 edition of the Publishing House Contest produced more winners than in any previous year. There were thirteen Grand Prize winners and fifteen qualifying prize winners. All of these winning overseers and youth directors will receive prizes for their exceptional promotional efforts. Many other prizes were made to local churches and pastors by the various state offices.

The Reverend Earl P. Paulk, Sr., State Overseer of Florida, won his fourth Grand Prize in as many years. The Reverend Paulk, earned two Grand Prizes as overseer of North Carolina; he won the last two Grand Prizes as overseer of Florida.

Other repeat winners from last year's contest include the Reverend Homer Boatman of Florida, the Reverend Ralph Williams and the Reverend Paul L. Walker of California, the Reverend Madison Sindle and the Reverend Eugene Nicholson of New York, and the Reverend Grady Waters of Minnesota.

The best all-round performance was made by California-Nevada. California-Nevada attained 166.8% of *Evangel* quota, 134.1% of LIGHTED PATHWAY quota, 139.7% of Pathway Book Club quota, 115.8% of Convention Song Book quota and 89 subscriptions to the *Pilot*. Mississippi, Minnesota, and New York followed in order.

AUGUST SPECIAL

NEW BOOKS BY CHURCH OF GOD AUTHORS

Inspirational Short Sermons by Zeno C. Tharp

Inspirational Short Sermons is dedicated to the thousands of Christians, especially mothers who live in the rural sections and suburbs of cities and who seldom get to go to church for various reasons. This 150-page book contains twenty-six inspiring short sermons. The clothbound edition has an attractive jacket and sells for \$1.50. The limp edition is available for \$1.00.

Favorite Stories and Illustrations by Zeno C. Tharp

This book is a compilation of the stories and illustrations of the former General Overseer of the Church of God. The first section of the book is the life story of the author. The remaining 100 pages of the book are filled with illustrations and stories that have sparked and illuminated the writer's preaching for the past forty-seven years. This edition is available in both the clothbound and limp cover. The price of the clothbound is \$1.50, the limp edition is \$1.50.

The Glorious Gospel by James A. Cross

The Glorious Gospel is a book of twelve diversified sermons written with the idea of being a devotional and inspirational book for laymen as well as something to provoke thought and prove helpful to the minister.

This 136-page book is available in a two-color dust jacket, clothbound edition for only \$1.50.

Pillars of Pentecost by Charles W. Conn

The volume deals with specifically Pentecostal subjects and gives the answers to questions concerning the origin, beliefs, efforts and nature of the Pentecostal movement.

This 142-page book is of equal value to those who are Pentecostal and those who only wish to know more about the movement. This book is available in an attractive two-color jacket, clothbound edition for only \$2.00.

Religion on Fire by Ray H. Hughes

Religion on Fire contains ten outstanding camp meeting sermons by the Reverend Ray H. Hughes, whom many consider the greatest preacher of the Pentecostal faith. One cannot read these sermons without realizing, at least in part, the tremendous impact they must have had upon the author's congregation. This 159-page book is available in a clothbound edition with a full-color dust jacket for only \$2.00.

CHURCH OF GOD PUBLISHING HOUSE
CLEVELAND, TENNESSEE



GOOD NEWS!

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